

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 6 and 8.

1. (Currently amended) A product management system in which a production management computer installed in a production plant of products and a management warehouse computer installed in a management warehouse for managing a process from arrival and storage of the products sent from said production plant to their shipment are connected with each other via a communication line,

wherein said production management computer comprises:

a pre-shipment data creating means for creating pre-shipment data including: product data including product identification data for identifying each of the products and representing features of said products; and package identification data for identifying a package containing ~~one or more~~ a plurality of said products, said package identification data being associated with said product identification data; and

a pre-shipment data transmitting means for transmitting said pre-shipment data to said management warehouse computer, ~~[[and]]~~

wherein said management warehouse computer comprises:

a reader device for reading a first medium, said first medium being provided on said package and bearing the package identification data of said packages; and

an incoming product inventory management means for storing the package identification data, excluding said product data, in a storage medium as data on actually received incoming products by ~~assuming~~ determining that products corresponding to the product identification data associated with said package identification data have arrived if the package identification data ~~are included in~~ read from said first medium ~~[[read]]~~ by said reader device, and the package identification data thus read exist in the pre-shipment data that had been stored in said management warehouse computer;

a backbone system installed in a management department; and

wherein said incoming product inventory management means determines whether said products have actually arrived using said package identification data only, thereby checking arrival of said products in a manner that a plurality of the products are brought together to be packed into a package as a minimum unit, allowing said product data to exist in said pre-shipment data separately from said data on actually received

incoming products, and transmitting only said data on the incoming products actually received as the arrival data to the backbone system.

2. (Original) The product management system according to claim 1, wherein said first medium includes at least one of a barcode, a two-dimensional code and a contact-free identification element.

3. (Currently amended) The product management system according to claim 1, wherein said incoming product inventory management means allows position identification data to be included in said data on actually received incoming products to be stored in said storage [[means]] medium in addition to said package identification data, said position identification data identifying positions of said packages as stored, corresponding to said package identification data by being associated therewith.

4. (Currently amended) The product management system according to claim 1, wherein after reading said medium, said reader device outputs operator identification data for identifying read operators whose identification data are stored beforehand to said incoming product inventory management means together with the package identification data included in said first medium, while said incoming product inventory management means allows said operator identification data to be included in said data on the actually received incoming products to be stored in said storage [[means]] medium in addition to said package identification data, with said operator identification data being associated with said package identification data.

5. (Original) The product management system according to claim 1, wherein said first medium comprises an active type RFID tag capable of reading out and rewriting in a contact-free manner, while said reader device comprises antennae installed in a conveying passage of said packages.

6. (Currently amended) The product management system according to claim 5, wherein said pre-shipment data creating means is constituted [[such]] so that a second

medium provided on said product comprises a passive type RFID tag whose communication range is narrower than that of said first medium, while said package identification data read out of said first medium and product identification data read out of said second medium are associated with each other to create said pre-shipment data.

7. (Original) The product management system according to claim 6, wherein every time said package identification data read out of said first medium are received subsequently to said product identification data read out of said second medium, said pre-shipment data creating means creates pre-shipment data by associating said product identification data with said package identification data.

8. (Currently amended) The product management system according to claim 5, wherein said product management system further comprises: a plurality of sensor means, corresponding to respective process steps in a production line; a second medium provided on the product passing through said production line, said second medium comprising a passive type RFID tag whose communication range is narrower than that of said first medium; and an RFID tag writing instruction means for allowing work completion data indicating the completion of work to be written in said second medium at each process step corresponding to said sensor means, when said sensor means senses a presence of said second medium.

9. (Original) The product management system according to claim 8, wherein said RFID tag writing instruction means allows a date and hour said sensor sensed the presence of said second medium to be included in said work completion data.